September 12, 1975

Honorable Otis Pike
Chairman, House Intelligence Committee
House of Representatives
Washington, D. C.

Dear Congressman Pike:

If you would like the real Gerald Ford to stand up on "national security" and breaches of it, please check him in the index to my enclosed book dealing with his personal record.

Not only did he rip it off for money, he lied about it under oath during his confirmation hearing.

When he was one heart-beat and two words, not four, away from President, when his functions included consideration of "national security" matters, he was the Number Two man in the government that went to court and lied under oath about this identical TOP SECRET document he had already purloined and sold for money, claiming that to let me or other Americans have it was still a matter properly TOP SECRET. Many years later.

Read this document in full and ask yourself if there is a single word in it that at any time ever qualified for any degree of classification.

Almost the same thing happened when he was President and ran the country. Another improperly classified TOP SECRET document I finally got when I was about to go to court - one he did not rip off because he did not dare release even a corrupted version of its contents - his representatives continued to insist was properly classified as though it could start a war if any of it was disclosed. I enclose a copy. The Archives can provide a better one.

Remember, he shared responsibility for all this wrongful classification.

What for money and other purposes that can be imputed Mr. Ford did to the TOP SECRET document he ripped off is entirely consistent with his present claims to the danger to "national security." Among the entirely unindicated editings of this document are every word that says repeatedly that the CIA lies and perjures and regards it as the ultimate in patriotism. Isn't that what you inquiry is all about? And the current issue?

Here is his record.

There will be nothing for me in this if you credit my work. The book is not in commercial distribution and you are not about to get up and tell people how to write me to buy it. So feel free to use it without credit or, if you'd prefer, I'll help you duplicate it so you can have only documents and do not have to refer to me or my work. My interest in this is not personal. If it were, I'd never publish a book under these conditions or live the life it requires.

I take this time from rushing another, larger book dealing similarly and definitively with another agency because of the national importance

of what you are doing. The future of the country, the kind of country we will have, will be controlled by the efforts of people willing to run the political risks you are now undertaking.

I take another moment for a suggestion of another way of fighting back if you want to: Ask the CIA to give you a copy of every document it has declassified in the past decade, every version in which it was declassified, and all records of classification and declassification. I can give you a couple of good horrible examples. In fact, I am willing to jeopardize writing already commenced if you think it will help.

Whatever you do, I appreciate your courage and dedication.

Sincerely,

Harold Weisberg